

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the office action dated September 11, 2009 within three months. The Examiner allows claims 1-6 and rejects claims 7-8. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 1-6.

The Examiner asserts that the Title is not descriptive of the claimed invention and requests a new Title. Applicants respectfully disagree, but to expedite prosecution, Applicants amend the Title to “Drive Apparatus For Performing A Sequential Recording And Reproduction On A Write-Once Recording Medium, And Method Of Reproducing Same”.

The Examiner next rejects claim 7 as indefinite because the Examiner asserts it is a write-once recording medium that cannot itself perform a process. Applicants respectfully disagree, but to expedite prosecution, Applicants present claim amendments to clarify the patentable features.

Applicants assert that amended claim 7 clarifies that what is being claimed is a write-once recording medium on which is performed a process, the medium itself does not perform the process. This amendment addresses the indefiniteness rejection of claim 7. Since the Examiner indicated that claim 1 is allowable and claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C 112, 2nd paragraph (see the Office Action, p. 3, lines 7-9), and claim 7 includes similar elements to those in claim 1, in addition to its own features, amended claim 7 should be allowable.

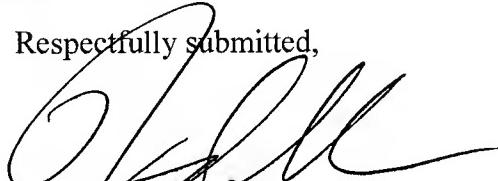
The Examiner next rejects claim 8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner also rejects claim 8 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Gushima, US Publication No. 2008/0304391 (“Gushima”). Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. Applicants assert that the amendments to claim 7 cure the deficiencies of claim 8, so the rejection is now moot and claim 8 is allowable for the same reasons as set forth in claim 7, in addition to its own respective features.

The Examiner also asserts that the write-once recording medium according to claim 7, as recited in claim 8, is the recording medium described in the preamble of claim 7, and only includes those elements listed before the recitation of process steps (p. 2, last line, to p. 3, lines 1-2 of the Office Action).

Amended claim 7 clarifies that the claimed write-once recording medium is subjected to a process by a drive apparatus, and thus the elements of the process performed on the medium in claim 7 are incorporated into claim 8 by reference. Gushima et al. does not teach any technique by which a write-once recording medium, which has been recorded on by a drive apparatus according to the steps of: determining a logical address-physical address mapping, receiving recording instructions including a logical address, and translating the logical address included in the recording instruction into a physical address in accordance with the logical address-physical address mapping, as recited in claim 7, can be reproduced. Therefore, Applicants assert that claim 8, which depends on claim 7, is also novel and inventive over Gushima.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims properly set forth that which Applicants regards as their invention and are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience, if that would help further prosecution of the subject application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **19-2814**.

Respectfully submitted,



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